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National Library of Medicine NEWS

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE - Public Health Service

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BOARD OF REGENTS HOLDS SPRING MEETING

The Board of Regents of the National Library of Medicine held its first meeting of the year March 18-19.

Attending for the first time was Rear Adm. Robert B. Brown, newly appointed Surgeon General of the Department of the Navy. Adm. Brown, who succeeds Rear Adm. E. C. Kenney in the Office of Surgeon General, will serve the Board of Regents as an ex officio member. Adm. Kenney, who retired in April, had served on the Board since 1961.

The Board heard status reports on a number of NLM program projects and activities, including plans for automation of the Library catalog and serial record, a study of graphic image storage and retrieval systems, planning for drug information centers, and development of the Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) list.

The meeting was highlighted by two special presentations. Board Member Dr. Saul Jarcho, a New York physician, made a gift to the Library of a 17th century medical text from his private collection. Published in Basel, Switzerland, in 1611, the work is entitled Selecta controversiarum medicarum centuria. It consists of a doctoral dissertation and thesis for the M.D. degree written by Ole Worm, a Danish physician and scientist. In accepting the gift, Dr. Martin M. Cummings, Director of the Library, said it would become part of the History of Medicine collection.

The second presentation, a historical exhibit depicting the development of the Library under the Department of the Army and the Public Health Service, was made by Brig. Gen. Conn L. Millburn Jr., Deputy Surgeon General of the Army. The exhibit is now on display in the lobby of the Library.

NLM JOINS PILOT STUDY ON DENTAL ABSTRACT JOURNAL

The National Library of Medicine has entered into a cooperative arrangement with the American Dental Association, the PHS Division of Dental Public Health and resources, and the National Institute of Dental Research to conduct a pilot

study leading toward an abstract journal for the world's dental literature. The project seeks to provide the first comprehensive coverage of international research literature related to dentistry and oral health.

"There is presently no comprehensive abstract service covering the world's scientific literature in oral health, dental science and practice," Dr. Luther L. Terry, Surgeon General of the Public Health Service said. "In this effort, several elements of the Public Health Service are working cooperatively with a U.S. professional scientific organization to improve basic scientific communications. This represents an interesting cooperative effort which may well serve as a model for similar activities in other subject matter fields."

The American Dental Association will receive and review abstracts of articles from the world's major dental journals and from selected non-dental journals, with a view to using them in a journal of abstracts. Both basic and applied research will be covered, with specific subject areas to include oral biology, chemistry, physiology, and nutrition; cause and occurrence of dental disorders; dental materials and technology; dental health communications and information; and social and behavioral research related to dentistry.

Approximately half of the abstracts will be obtained from established sources in the United States. The remainder will be prepared by the faculty of the Hadassah School of Dentistry of Hebrew University, Jerusalem, under the direction of Dr. Ino Sciaky, dean of the school. NLM is supporting the preparation of abstracts in Israel under its special foreign currency program under a government contract with Israel's Program for Scientific Translations.

The decision to establish a journal of abstracts will be made in August 1965, on the basis of experience gained in the trial period. Ultimately some 250 dental journals, as well as a large number of non-dental publications, would be covered in the abstract journal. Publication of approximately 9,000 abstracts annually is proposed.

NLM REPRESENTED AT NFSAIS MEETING

Mr. Scott Adams, Deputy Director of the Library, participated in a meeting of the National Federation of Science Abstracting and Indexing Services (NFSAIS) in Columbus, Ohio.

Purpose of the meeting, which included representatives from major U.S. information services, was to analyze discipline - and mission-oriented and government and management approaches to abstracting and indexing services. Major emphasis was placed on the fields of biology and chemistry.

During panel discussion moderated by Verner Clapp, President of the Council on Library Resources, Bernard Fry, Director of the Clearinghouse for Federal Scientific and Technical Information of the National Bureau of Standards, proposed the creation of four information clearinghouses covering agricultural sciences, engineering, physical sciences and chemistry, and biomedical sciences. The clearinghouses would be responsible for the wholesaling of abstracts from profession-oriented abstracting and indexing services to project-oriented services, or directly to users.

USBE MEETS AT NLM

Mr. Samuel Lazerow, Chief of Technical Services Division, representing the Library and the Medical Library Association, has been reelected to the post of president and chairman of the Board of the United States Book Exchange, Inc. for the 1965-1966 term. Mr. Benjamin A. Custer, Library of Congress, was reelected as vice-president. The USBE is a cooperative clearinghouse for interlibrary exchange of duplicate publications.

Delegates from USBE's 20 sponsoring organizations convened at the Library this month for their 17th annual meeting. Among the guests were Dr. Martin M. Cummings, Director of NLM, who welcomed the group to the Library; Bill M. Woods, Chairman of the Council of National Library Associations; and Dr. Wallace R. Brode, Co-Chairman of the Engineers' and Scientists' People-to-People Committee.

Officers of the corporation, including Mr. Lazerow as president, Martin M. Loftus, Librarian of the Joint Library of the International Bank and Monetary Fund and USBE treasurer, and Alice D. Ball, executive director, presented reports on the past year's activities.

The reports indicated that, during 1964, USBE had overcome the difficulty encountered at the end of 1963, when the Agency for International Development failed to renew its contract with the corporation for services to libraries in newly-developing countries. It was noted that, thanks to the support of American libraries and the efforts of the USBE staff, the corporation concluded the year successfully with apparent realization of its goal to become completely self-supporting.

The USBE distributed more than 584,000 publications during the year to paying libraries (member institutions which pay dues and handling fees). This represents 84% of the total sent out in 1963, when two-thirds of the items went to AID-supported libraries. Distribution to paying libraries in 1964 was more than twice that made to those libraries in 1963. The average annual number of publications sent to each member library rose from 156 in 1963 to 431 in 1964.

Other officers elected at the meeting were Bella E. Shachtman, National Agricultural Library, Secretary, 1965-66, and Roland E. Kircher, Wesley Theological Seminary, Treasurer, 1965-66. New Board Members for 1965-67 include Elizabeth Ferguson, Institute of Life Insurance; Robert D. Stevens, University of Hawaii; and Edward N. Waters, Library of Congress.

BRITISH VISITORS BEGIN MEDLARS TRAINING

Under an agreement between the National Library of Medicine and the National Lending Library for Science and Technology of Great Britain, Dr. A. J. Harley and Miss Elizabeth Barraclough last month began several months' training in NLM's MEDLARS operation.

Dr. Harley is the Senior Scientific Officer of the National Lending Library, and Miss Barraclough is the senior computer programmer at the Computing Laboratory of the University of Newcastle-on-Tyne.

They will study MEDLARS procedures for indexing, searching, and data processing preparatory to planning the establishment of a proposed MEDLARS search center in England. The British center would be operated by the National Lending Library in conjunction with the Computing Laboratory of the University of Newcastle-on-Tyne. The National Library of Medicine would supply duplicate MEDLARS tapes to the National Lending Library, thus providing it with the same information retrieval capacity as the NLM.

The National Lending Library, an administrative component of the British Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, is located near Walton, Boston Spa, Yorkshire.

The NLL now collects some 20,500 current serials representing the whole field of science and technology, including agriculture and medicine. Its loan service, backed up by the resources of the Science Museum Library, is available to industrial firms, research groups, academic institutions, and the larger public libraries in Great Britain.

In addition, the NLL provides a photocopy service in response to mail or teletype requests from approved libraries. It also conducts a program of training courses aimed at providing users with better access to the literature.

Dr. Harley, whose specialty is organic chemistry, is a graduate of the University of Leeds, where he earned his B.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees. He has served on the staff of the National Lending Library for more than two years. Miss Barraclough is a graduate of the University of Manchester and also holds a M.Sc. degree from the University of Newcastle-on-Tyne.

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